

a8/ 5 environments such as the Internet. The Internet, in particular, has been widely regarded as a wild frontier, largely untamed and unregulated, and where one should proceed with caution. It is also widely considered to be an environment where rapid change, limited understanding, and poor implementations of technology have left even those presumably best prepared at risk. Regardless of the extent to which these concerns are actually true, it is incontestable that there is an existing and growing crises of confidence when it comes to the security of communications via the Internet. The present invention particularly addresses one key segment of such network communications, e-mail security.

10 In the Claims:

Please amend claims 8, 10, and 18 as follows:

8 (Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein:

15 said step (e) includes mailing to at least one said receiver which is in a receiver list; and the method further comprising:
resolving said receiver list into a plurality of said receiver ids for said security server, to allow said security server to provide said message key to instances of said receivers which are members of said receiver list.

20 10 (Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said steps (b) and (c) employs secure socket layer protocol in communications with said security server.

25 18 (Amended). The method of claim 11, wherein:

the secure e-mail is sent by a sender and a first message seal based on the secure e-mail before it left control of said sender is stored by said security server;
said step (b) further includes also providing to said security server a second message seal which is taken from the secure e-mail as received by said receiver; and
said step (c) includes receiving an indication from said security server whether said first message seal and said second message seal match, to determine whether the secure e-mail was altered in transit.